

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 3, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Select Area Commercial Fisheries Select Area Sport Fisheries
--------------------------------	---

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- Preseason forecasts were for 254,100 upriver stock and 116,900 Willamette stock spring Chinook.
- The Bonneville Dam count through May 2nd totals 37,265 adult fish and 236 jacks.
- Based on the recent 5-year average, 65% of the run has passed by May 2nd. Since 1970 the latest timed run occurred in 1996. Passage for the 1996 run was 43% complete by May 2nd and peaked on May 6th.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 2nd to examine the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC reduced the run to a range between 70,000 and 100,000 upriver spring Chinook returning to the river mouth.
- The Willamette Falls spring Chinook count through April 28th totals 8,254 adult fish. Based on the recent 5-year average, 18% of the run has passed by April 28th. Willamette spring Chinook run-sizes are updated in late May.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Flows during April of this year have averaged 148 kcfs (range 119-202 kcfs), which is 64% of the April 10-year average of 231 kcfs (range 188-277 kcfs).
- River temperatures recorded at Bonneville Dam during April averaged 49° F, which is equal to the April 10-year average. April 2005 temperatures were a little cooler than average through most of April, but did catch up to 10-yr average temperature by the end of the month.

SPRING CHINOOK FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Combined landings for both the winter commercial sturgeon and salmon seasons include 5,364 Chinook and 543 white sturgeon. Upriver spring Chinook impacts are estimated at 0.279% of the preseason forecast or 47% of the 0.6% management guideline.

Select Area Commercial Fishery

- Landings for the winter Select Area commercial season includes 190 spring Chinook and 9 white sturgeon. Upriver spring chinook impacts are estimated at 0.004% of the preseason forecast or 4.0% of the 0.1% Select Area impact guideline.

- Spring season fishing periods scheduled for Select Areas on April 21 and April 25 were rescinded at the April 19th Compact Hearing and fishing periods scheduled for April 28 and May 2 were rescinded at the April 27th Compact Hearing.
- Select Areas commercial fishing is scheduled to resume May 5th in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River.

Non-Indian Recreational Fisheries

Columbia River

- The mainstem Columbia River closed to salmon, steelhead and shad angling effective April 21st from Buoy 10 to McNary dam, including concurrent waters of Select Areas.
- Mainstem recreational fisheries resulted in an estimated 108,000 angler trips with approximately 10,200 kept and 2,900 released spring chinook. Of the Chinook handled, 65% were of upriver origin. Impacts to upriver spring Chinook are estimated to be 0.334% of the preseason forecast or 42% of the 0.79% management guideline.
- The catch rate for boat anglers during April 2005 was 0.46 fish/boat compared to 0.71, 0.48, 0.42, and 0.62 during the previous four years.
- Sport anglers between Bonneville and McNary Dams have completed 162 angler trips through April 17th resulting in 35 kept and 41 released spring chinook. Impacts are estimated to be 0.003% of the preseason forecast or 3.0% of the 0.1% management guideline set aside for this fishery.

Lower Willamette River

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Catch rates during April 26th through May 1st were one kept Chinook for every 5 boats comparable to the prior two weeks of one kept Chinook for every 4 boats.

Other Columbia River Tributaries

- Catch rates on Washington tributaries below Bonneville Dam are generally good, with one Chinook handled for every 3-10 boat anglers.
- Returns to the Cowlitz Hatchery continue to be strong, with over 700 spring Chinook returning to the hatchery last week. Other Washington hatcheries are also on track.
- Washington tributaries above Bonneville Dam continue to produce good catch and effort reports. Catch rates range from one Chinook handled for every 4-6 boat anglers.

Combined Fishery Impacts

- Impacts based on the pre-season forecast include 0.283% for the commercial fisheries (mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas) and 0.337% for the recreational fisheries for a total of 0.620%, or 31% of the 2.00% limit.
- Impact rates increase as run size decreases. A summary of cumulative non-Indian fishery impacts at various run sizes are provided in the following table:

Summary of Non-Indian Impacts by Run Size								
ESA Impact Limit: 2.00% for runs 82,000 or greater, 1.5% for runs less than 82,000								
Allocation of Impacts	ESA	Run Size						
	Guideline	125,000	100,000	95,000	90,000	85,000	82,000	81,999
Mainstem commercial	0.60	0.569	0.711	0.747	0.789	0.835	0.866	0.866
Select Area commercial	0.10	0.008	0.010	0.011	0.011	0.012	0.012	0.012
Commercial shad/buffer	0.10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Below BON sport	0.79	0.679	0.849	0.893	0.942	0.997	1.035	1.035
LCR STHD (May 15-Jun 15)	0.01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
BON to McNary Dam sport	0.10	0.006	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.009	0.009	0.009
SR sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sport /Buffer	0.10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total non-Indian Impacts	2.00	1.26	1.58	1.66	1.75	1.85	1.92	1.92
% Of ESA Limit Taken		63%	79%	83%	88%	93%	96%	128%

FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Option 1

Select Area Commercial Fisheries Recommendation
<p>The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to scheduled Select Area spring fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescind fishing periods previously adopted for May 5-6 and May 9-10 in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River and May 9-13 in Youngs Bay.

Option 2

Select Area Commercial Fisheries Recommendation
<p>The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to scheduled Select Area spring fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescind fishing periods previously adopted for May 9-10 in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River and May 9-13 in Youngs Bay. Modify fishing periods previously adopted for May 5-6 as follows: <p>Time/ Area: Blind Slough: 6 PM – Midnight Thursday May 5th 2005 (6 hours) Deep River: 6 PM –Midnight Thursday May 5th, 2005 (6 hours) Youngs Bay: 4 PM –8 PM Thursday May 5th (4 hours)</p> <p>Area: Blind Slough: Blind Slough fishing area from markers at mouth upstream to the upper deadline markers. <u>Knappa Slough closed.</u> Deep River: Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge. Youngs Bay: <u>Reduced</u> Youngs Bay fishing area from the “old” Youngs Bay bridge (alternate Highway 101) upstream to the upper deadline at the confluence of Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.</p> <p>Gear: 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction in all areas. Blind Slough: Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Deep River: Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. Youngs Bay: Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Attachment of additional weights and anchors directly to the leadline is allowed in Blind</p>

Allowable Sales:	Slough and Deep River. Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Youngs Bay/Blind Slough: Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect. Deep River: Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. A sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Kato's dock

- ✓ Restricting fishing hours (daylight low tide) and reducing area for these proposed fishing periods should result in ≤ 1 , and likely zero (0), upriver spring chinook mortalities. Reducing time only and maintaining normal fishing areas (i.e. all of Youngs Bay) would likely result in harvest of ≤ 2 upriver fish.
- ✓ Rescinding the fishing periods scheduled for next week will provide time to evaluate upriver run size, results of fishing periods proposed for May 5th, and determine the risk of future planned Select Area fisheries. Based on 2001-2003 data, Select Area fishing periods currently adopted for May 9-June 17 would result in the harvest of up to ten (10) additional upriver fish; however, further modifications to time and area would further reduce upriver impacts.
- ✓ Staff recognizes the risk of exceeding the 2% impact limit if the run size is less than 82,000. Adoption of this modified fishing strategy will provide some access to Select Area spring chinook that should be concentrating in Select Area fishing sites while minimizing risk to non-local stocks. Further delays will likely reduce the economic benefit of Select Area spring fisheries due to increased straying and decreasing fish quality.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

<i>Select Area Recreational Fisheries Recommendation</i>
<p>The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to the Select Area recreational spring fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with the opening of the commercial fisheries in Select Areas, reinstate permanent regulations for recreational fishing in Select Areas effective 12:01 AM Thursday May 5, 2005.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Tuesday May 10th, 2005 at 10:00 AM by telephone.